

March 13, 2001

To Interested Parties:

PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is contacting the public on behalf of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to solicit data and information regarding water quality conditions in surface waters in this Region. The information gathered will be used in various assessments of the State's waters including the development of a submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) required by the federal Clean Water Act (Section 303(d)). This submission will be developed by the SWRCB and will provide the US EPA with a revised list of waters considered by the State to be impaired (not attaining water quality standards) after certain required technology-based water quality controls are in place. It is anticipated that this submission will be provided to the US EPA by April 2002, as required by federal regulations. The submission will be based on information and data available to the SWRCB and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The information gathered in this solicitation will also contribute to the preparation of the 2002 federal Clean Water Act Section 305(b) Report on Water Quality.

Anyone, including but not limited to, private citizens, public agencies, state and federal governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses, possessing information regarding the quality of the Region's waters may provide information.

We are seeking to obtain all readily available data and assessment information generated since July 1997. All data and information you wish to provide must be received by the Regional Board **by 5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2001**. For purposes of this solicitation, "information" is any documentation describing the current or anticipated water quality condition of a surface water body. We consider "data" to be a subset of "information" that consists of reports of measurements of specific environmental characteristics. The data and information may pertain to physical, chemical, and/or biological conditions of the region's waters or watersheds.

Information provided should conform to the following considerations:

- The name of the entity or person providing the information.
- Mailing address, phone number, and email address for a contact person able to answer questions about any of the information provided.
- Two hard copies and an electronic copy of all information provided. For reports Microsoft Word is the preferred software. Please specify the software used to format the information and provide definitions for any codes or abbreviations used.
- Bibliographic citations for all information provided.
- If computer model outputs are included in the information, please provide bibliographic citations and specify any calibration and quality assurance information available.

Any data provided should conform to the following considerations:

- Data in electronic form, in a spreadsheet, database or ASCII format. Please specify the format and define any codes or abbreviations used in your database.
- A description of, and reference for your quality assurance procedures.
- Metadata for the field data, i.e., when measurements were taken, locations, number of samples, detection limits, etc.
- If possible, **two** hard copies of the data, so that we can verify that we have accurately transferred the data to our database.
- In addition, for data from citizen volunteer water quality monitoring efforts:
 - The name of your group;
 - Indication of any training in water quality assessment completed by members of your group;

We would like to receive data and information as soon as possible and no later than **May 15, 2001**. Data or information received after May 15, 2001 will not be considered in developing the April 2002 submission to US EPA required by Clean Water Act Section 303(d).

Please send any information and data you wish to provide to:

Judith Unsicker
Lahontan RWQCB
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe CA 96150

Email address: <unsij@rb6s.swrcb.ca.gov> .

If you have questions regarding information or data you wish to submit, please contact Judith Unsicker at the mailing or email addresses above, or by telephone at (530) 542-5462).

The Regional Boards have been requested to provide recommendations to the SWRCB in Fall 2001 on the condition of Regional waters. The SWRCB will consider all Regional Boards' recommendations regarding the conditions of the Region's waters when formulating the 303(d) submission. The State's submission revising the list of impaired waters will be considered by the SWRCB in a public process to be conducted next winter. Opportunities for review of the proposed submission and public comment on the submission will be announced at a later date.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Dodds
Assistant Executive Officer

Enclosure:

JEU/shT:303dsolic.doc".

[Basin Plan-Water Quality Assessment" general file]